

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 26, 2003

**Senate Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 16**

**Introduced by Senator Morrow**

March 18, 2003

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 16—Relative to POW Recognition Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 16, as amended, Morrow. POW Recognition Day.

This measure would designate April 9, 2003, as POW Recognition Day in California.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Men and women have long answered our nation's  
2 call to duty and undertaken their mission as members of the United  
3 States Armed Forces; and

4 WHEREAS, Our military personnel have gone to battle in  
5 countries far and near to defend the ramparts of liberty and resist  
6 the agents of tyranny; and

7 WHEREAS, Hostile forces throughout the world continue to  
8 subvert the political and economic freedom for which American  
9 soldiers have sacrificed their lives; and

10 WHEREAS, Many members of the National Guard and the  
11 United States military reserve have been ordered to active duty in  
12 response to the terrorist attacks on the United States on September  
13 11, 2001, and America's continuing War on Terrorism; and

14 WHEREAS, Our military personnel ~~may be~~ *are now being*  
15 ~~called on for further sacrifices in countries such as Iraq and North~~  
16 ~~and South Korea; and~~ *further sacrifices in Iraq; and*

1 WHEREAS, Since World War I, there have been some 142,257  
2 Americans captured and interned under deplorable conditions; and

3 WHEREAS, Most of our military personnel have returned  
4 home as heroes and proud veterans, but sadly another 92,457 other  
5 Americans were lost in combat, and their remains never recovered;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, On April 9, 1865, General Robert E. Lee  
8 surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant in Appomattox Court  
9 House, Virginia; and

10 WHEREAS, General King, the American Army General who  
11 surrendered the largest number of military fighting personnel ever  
12 surrendered at one time to an enemy force, was a student of history  
13 who knew that April 9 marked the surrender at Appomattox, and  
14 who chose April 9 of 1942, to surrender; and

15 WHEREAS, The surrender of American and Filipino troops by  
16 General King on April 9, 1942, on the Bataan Peninsula led to the  
17 infamous Bataan Death March; and

18 WHEREAS, April 9, 2003, marks the 61th anniversary of the  
19 surrender on the Bataan Peninsula; and

20 WHEREAS, The POW remembrance flag flies over the  
21 California Capitol daily; and

22 WHEREAS, Search teams continually span the globe to locate  
23 deceased fighting men so that positive identification can be made  
24 and loved ones notified; and

25 WHEREAS, The National POW Museum located in  
26 Andersonville, Georgia, honors all prisoners of war, and is a  
27 constant reminder of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for  
28 their country; and

29 WHEREAS, April 9 was chosen by Congress to be the national  
30 day for honoring prisoners of war; and

31 WHEREAS, Each year, citizens throughout America join in  
32 observances to honor and recognize former American prisoners of  
33 war, and to remember those individuals still unaccounted for, so  
34 that we may rededicate ourselves to finding a resolution to their  
35 status that will allow their families to have the peace they deserve;  
36 now, therefore, be it

37 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
38 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby designates April  
39 9, 2003, as POW Recognition Day in California; and be it further

- 1     *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
- 2     this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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